

To: Distribution

From: Bob Hunnicutt, Tower Coordinator, Columbia Telecommunications

A meeting of the Transmission Facility Coordinating Group (TF CG) was held on March 4, 2010. The following people were in attendance:

MEMBERS

Marjorie Williams	OCCS	(240) 777-3762
Helen Mu (via phone)	DTS	(240) 777-2804
Carlton Gilbert	M-NCPPC	(301) 495-4577
Mary Pat Wilson	MCPS	(240) 314-4707
David Niblock	DPS	(240) 777-6252

STAFF

Bob Hunnicutt	CTC	(301) 933-1488
David Doulong	CTC	(301) 933-1488
Shivani Gandhi	CTC	(301) 933-1488

OTHER ATTENDEES

Carmen Charalambous	NB&C/T-Mobile	(301) 775-5826
Hillorie Morrison	NB&C/T-Mobile	hillorie.morrison@t-mobile.com
Chris Brown	NextG Networks	cbrown@nextgnetworks.net
Harold Bernadzikowski	NB&C/Verizon	hbernadzikowski@nbcllc.com
Paul Whitley	NB&C	pwhitley@nbcllc.com
John Kessler	Newpath	ohn.kessler@newpathnetworks.net
Charles Ryan	SCE/Verizon	cryan@sceeng.com
Rebecca Hunter	NB&C	rhunter@nbcllc.com
Gregory Tully	NB&C	gtully@nbcllc.com
Pam Kooker	Bechtel	pakooker@bechtel.com
Mohamed	AT&T	mm3773@att.com
Sean Hughes	Sean Hughes Law Offices	

Action Item Meeting Minutes: Carlton Gilbert moved the minutes be approved as written. Mary Pat Wilson seconded the motion and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Action Item Consent Agenda Applications:

1. Verizon Wireless application to replace antennas at the 173' level atop a 164' high Berkshire Towers building, 11215 Oak Leaf Drive, Silver Spring (Application #201004-01).

Motion: David Niblock moved the Consent agenda item be recommended. Carlton Gilbert seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

Action Item: T-Mobile application to attach antennas at the 147' level on a 150' high monopole to be constructed on the Carlisle property, 22730 Mt. Ephraim Road, Dickerson (Application #200907-11).

Bob Hunnicutt summarized the application and reminded the group that they had reviewed an application from T-Mobile in 2009 to attach antennas to a monopole in Dickerson just a little less than a mile from the proposed location of this new monopole. He stated that since that time T-Mobile had expanded their intended coverage area for antennas in this part of the county to include an area farther east of Dickerson. Based on the T-Mobile RF maps, the signals from the Dickerson monopole signals may not extend to the new target service area.

Shivani Gandhi summarized the engineering review of the documentation provided by T-Mobile and noted that

T-Mobile had documented the need for antennas in this area including service along Mount Ephraim Road and Barnesville Road. She noted that there was a section of Barnesville Road where the terrain fell and signal levels dropped below the target levels where the road crossed the Little Monocacy River. She said that T-Mobile's RF maps showed that antennas at all three elevations may address coverage needs along Barnesville Road, but signal levels high enough for in-vehicle coverage did not appear to extend as far to the east with antennas at the lower elevations as with the antennas at the proposed height above ground. She added that she had asked for coverage information about the orientation of antennas from the Dickerson monopole to see if redirecting those antennas to the east might better meet the new coverage area along Mt. Ephraim Road, but T-Mobile had not provided that information.

Mr. Hunnicutt mentioned that because of this relatively flat area around the monopole it would be highly visible from most places, as can be seen in the photo simulations. He also mentioned that he had received a copy of a letter to T-Mobile from the Rustic Roads Committee which stated that the Committee preferred a unipole design for all the up-County sites for which T-Mobile had filed applications recently, and that the monopoles in all those cases appeared to be too close to the roadway. He said that for this application, the applicant had reported that for engineering reasons a unipole design could not be used. He noted, however, that T-Mobile had not provided any documentation to support that claim and, in the Tower Coordinators opinion, a unipole design could be provided just as well as it had been provided for those other rural areas where T-Mobile had recently submitted applications in recent months.

Mary Pat Wilson asked if the utility poles that ran from Mount Ephraim Road across the farm property could be used to support the antennas. Mr. Hunnicutt replied that those poles were approximately 22' above ground which would be too low for antenna attachment to meet T-Mobiles coverage objective for this area. Hillorie Morrison added that T-Mobile had used utility poles in some cases, but for those locations, the coverage objective had been for just a small area. She said that in this case T-Mobile is looking to provide coverage over a very large area of the county to minimize the need for additional antenna sites to serve this area.

Mr. Hunnicutt noted that the design plans did not show the ground space of sufficient size to accommodate additional carriers. He stated that, if requested by the applicant, the Board of Appeals could reduce the requirement for additional carriers based on certain conditions specified in the code. Ms Morrison reported that the space would be designed to support additional carriers.

Carlton Gilbert asked what T-Mobiles response had been to the Rustic Roads requests and why the monopole is not designed to support additional carriers. Hillorie Morrison replied that T-Mobile would address that matter before the Board of Appeals.

Motion: David Niblock moved the application be recommended conditioned on approval of a Special Exception by the Board of Appeals, a unipole-designed monopole as recommended by the Rustic Roads Committee, and either approval of a monopole for less than three carriers if requested by the applicant, or a monopole designed to accommodate three carriers antennas and ground equipment. Helen Mu seconded the motion and it was approved with Carlton Gilbert abstaining.

Action Item: T-Mobile application to attach antennas at the 127' level of a 130' high monopole to be constructed on Calvary Church property, 19124 Jerusalem Road, Poolesville (Application #201003-01).

Bob Hunnicutt reminded the group that at the preceding TFCG meeting, the group voted to table this application pending T-Mobile providing information to complete the application before they could the group could take action. He stated the issue had to do with whether or not the T-Mobile antennas could be attached to the town of Poolesvilles stand pipe (water tank) located approximately 600' from the location for the new monopole.

Mr. Hunnicutt noted that the group had asked T-Mobile to provide drive test results and T-Mobile agreed that they would do so. In the interim, however, T-Mobile reported that the town of Poolesville had told them the Town would not permit T-Mobile to attach antennas to the water tank. Mr. Hunnicutt stated that he had asked T-Mobile for either drive test results or something from the town of Poolesville that supported that statement, but had not received a response. He asked the applicant in attendance at the meeting if T-Mobile had received a letter from the Town or if they had drive test results.

The applicant replied that they had heard verbally from the Town Manager that they would permit antennas to

be attached to the side of the water tank, but T-Mobile believed antennas there would be too low above ground level to meet the coverage objective.

Mr. Hunnicutt stated that T-Mobile had provided RF contour maps showing the calculated coverage with antennas at the 80' level, which is the height of the water tank, and based on the tower Coordinators engineering review of those RF maps, it appeared that antennas on the water tank may meet the coverage objective for this area. Consequently, lacking any further engineering documentation, he could not agree that antennas on the water tank would not work.

Motion: David Niblock moved the application be tabled until T-Mobile provided the engineering documentation necessary to complete the application and upon which the group could base a decision. Carlton Gilbert seconded the motion and the application was tabled.

Action Item: T-Mobile application to attach antennas at the 35' level of an existing 24' National Childrens Center building located at 410 University Boulevard West in Silver Spring (Application #200908-22).

Marjorie Williams stated that since information requested in 2009 had finally been provided by an applicant for antennas on a rooftop along University Boulevard, she had asked the Tower Coordinator to add this application to today's agenda for discussion.

Bob Hunnicutt stated that in August, 2009 T-Mobile had submitted an application to attach antennas to a building in a residential area which was permitted by Special Exception but did not meet the 50' height requirement for rooftop antennas in a residential zone. He stated that it was not clear whether those antennas would need to have another Special Exception, a modification to the Special Exception for the building, or would need approval for a variance. He stated that when asked by the group to check with the Board of Appeals to ascertain the answer to that question, the applicant had agreed to do so. Mr. Hunnicutt added that now, eight months later, it appeared they have the answer and asked the applicant for a response.

Sean Hughes, representing T-Mobile, responded that they had filed a written request with the Board of Appeals for an administrative approval to permit the antennas on the rooftop. He said the Board was scheduled to consider their request at its March 10, 2010 meeting.

Mr. Hunnicutt added that since the time the TGCG had reviewed this application, T-Mobile had redesigned the configuration of the antennas but he had not seen the new plans for the site. Carmen Charalambous distributed copies of the revised plans. Mr. Hunnicutt noted that the original design for antennas on this rooftop was to have three sets of two antennas, each sled-mounted, and covered with cylinders to conceal each antenna. He said that the current design appeared to have two sets of two antennas each to be concealed inside faux chimneys atop the roof of the building, presumably to make them less intrusive in the residential setting.

Mr. Hunnicutt stated that the Tower Coordinators recommendation would be to condition the TFCG recommendation on approval by the Board of Appeals of a Special Exception, Administrative modification to the existing Special Exception, or whatever other applicable action may be deemed appropriate by the Board for placement of these facilities.

Motion: David Niblock moved the application be recommended as conditioned by the Tower Coordinator. Helen Mu seconded the motion and it was approved with Carlton Gilbert abstaining.

The next meeting of the TFCG is scheduled for Wednesday, April 7 at 2 p.m. in the second floor conference room #225 of the COB.